

# NORTH AND SOUTH DAKOTA HORTICULTURE

SEPTEMBER 1935



AT THE DEDICATION OF THE ROBERTSON MEMORIAL, JULY 18th, 1935

Top row, standing, left to right, Dr. Jas. Clark, Sioux Falls; Geo. W. Gurney, Yankton; John S. Robertson, Hot Springs; Dr. N. E. Hansen, Brookings; F. X. Wallner, Sioux Falls; Dr. W. H. Over, Vermillion. Seated, E. A. Gates, Rapid City; H. E. Beebe, Ipswich; H. N. Dybvig, Colton; W. A. Simmons, Sioux Falls; and J. B. Taylor, Ipswich.



**THE CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR**

By O. A. Stevens.

The longspur are sparrows which are closely related to the snow bunting, and receive their name from the unusually long hind toe. The Lapland longspur, which I described in the March 1931 number of this magazine, nests on the arctic tundras and we see it only in winter and during migration. The chestnut-collared is a common summer resident of our prairies. It occurs in summer over the plains region of the northern half of western United States, and migrates to the southern states for winter, returning to our region early in April.

The male of this species is readily recognized by the all black under parts. The head is black on top with a white stripe over the eye. The back of the neck has the reddish-brown band as in the Lapland Longspur. The female has three outer tail feathers mostly white, while the Vesper Sparrow with which it might be confused, has only the first and the edge of the second feather white. The male has a flight song somewhat like that of the bobolink and might be confused with that bird, but the longspur of course has the streaked, sparrow type upper parts and not the black, white and yellow pattern of the bobolink.

The chestnut-collared longspur is more strictly a bird of the plains than is the lark sparrow. It was first discovered in western Nebraska by Townsend and Nuttall in 1834. The birds nest on the open prairie, using only a little depression among the short grasses and a small amount of nesting material. The eggs are drab color, spotted with brown or purplish. The birds commonly nest in colonies, a number of pairs not far apart. As with other native sparrows, their food consists of insects, seeds of weeds and grasses. In 1873 Elliott Coues wrote: "The chestnut-collared Bunting breeds in profusion on the plains of Northern Dakota. On the bare plains, away from a single landmark, it is perhaps the most abundant bird of all."

This range has become greatly reduced by the breaking up of the prairie. About 1880 it was a common bird on the high prairie in southwestern Minnesota, but now it has become quite rare there, only a few pairs remaining in favorable localities. In North Dakota it has disappeared from the eastern part of the State to a considerable extent. It is another species which is much in need of protected areas of native prairie, so that it will not be entirely lost to us.

Nearly twenty years after the discovery of the chestnut-collared longspur, Captain J. P. McCown of the United States Army, found in western Texas another species of longspur which was named for him by George N. Lawrence. McCown's Longspur has black on the breast only, no

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brown collar but a brown spot on the wing and a nearly white tail. It is a rather small bird which had a distribution somewhat similar to that of the chestnut-collared, and in recent years has become much rarer. There is still another species, known as Smith's Longspur, which appears occasionally in migration with the Lapland. It is more buffy and the male has some black and white markings on the head.

An interesting report of the August meeting at Mandan, North Dakota, is published in the North Dakota Newsletter of this issue.





## NORTH DAKOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

### THE MANDAN MEETING.



**A. F. Yeager,**  
Secretary,  
Fargo, N. D.

Those of our membership who were able to be present at the meeting at Mandan, August 15-16th, were certainly well repaid. The program the afternoon of the fifteenth was unusually good. Papers delivered at that time will be printed in our magazine at a later date. While the rest of you may get much of the information in that way, you cannot receive the inspiration that comes from a gathering of enthusiasts, nor can you have the mental picture that those attending have of the various fruits, vegetables and flowers exhibited and which were seen growing in the fields.

Not the least of the worthwhile experiences was a trip to old Fort Abraham Lincoln and the reconstructed Indian village of 300 years ago.

Generally speaking, the crops at Mandan and in that vicinity are better than near Fargo. Much the same varieties were promising there that are among the leaders here. Our recommended fruit list was quite thoroughly revised and will be printed in quantity a bit later.

At the banquet and business meeting we heard talks from a number of persons including folks from South Dakota, Canada, North Dakota, and a graduate of Chinese University who spoke of the Chinese elm in his home land. The meeting place selected for 1936 was Fargo, the date being left to the executive committee. The South Dakota State Horticultural Society expects to meet with us at that time.

Officers elected for the coming year are:

- A. L. Truax. Crosby, President.
- D. D. Baldwin. Bottineau, Vice President.
- J. C. Gould, Mandan, Vice President.
- A. F. Yeager, Fargo, Secretary.
- E. L. Shaw, Fargo, Treasurer.

The final trip of the session was to the plant and gardens of Oscar H. Will & Company at Bismarck, and the new North Dakota state capitol.

One of the striking things to me on the trip was the buffalo grass lawns being established at the Northern Great Plains Field Station. There is undoubtedly much promise in this grass for lawns in the dry land area. An attractive feature to a lazy man is the fact that it need not be mowed, though I admit that it is somewhat improved by mowing.

The following is the recommended fruit list as revised at the meeting at Mandan:

### Apples.

First degree hardiness—Duchess, Charlamoff, Pattens, Greening, Haralson, Anoka, Hibernial.

Second degree hardiness—Wealthy, Iowa Beauty, Red Wing.

Recommended for trial—Erickson, McIntosh, Red Duchess, Melba, Waukon, Longfield, Wedge, Sweet Russet.

### Crabapples.

First degree hardiness—Florence, Whitney, Dolgo, Virginia (pickling).

Recommended for trial—Sugar, Trail, Ivan, Amur.

### Cherries.

Recommended for trial—Vladimar, Besserabia, Wragg, Nankin Sweet Cherry (Prunus tomentosa.)

### Currants.

Standard—Perfection, Long Bunch Holland, Red Lake, London Market, White Grape.

Recommended for trial—Fleming (black), Minnesota 70.

### Gooseberries.

First degree hardiness—Pixwell, Carrie.

Recommended for trial—Abundance, Perry, Como, Clark.

### Grapes.

First degree hardiness—Alpha, Beta.

Recommended for trial—Minnesota No. 27, Minnesota No. 11.

### Pears.

Recommended for trial—Patten, Mendel, Tait No. 2.

### Plums.

First degree hardiness—Terry, Assinaboine, Surprise, Wolf, Cheney.

### Hybrid Plums.

Hardest—Red Wing, Waneta, Cree, Pembina, Ojibwa, Radisson.

For trial—LaCrescent, Tokata, Kahinta, Underwood, Superior, Toka, Elliott, Kaga, Tecumseh, Fiebing.

### Sandcherry Hybrids.

First degree hardiness—Opata, Compass.

Second degree hardiness—Sapa, Oka.

Recommended for trial—Valley City, Tom Thumb, Champa, Mordena, Cooper.

### Sandcherries.

Recommended for trial—Sioux, Brooks.

### Raspberries.

Hardest—Latham, Sunbeam, Chief.

Blacks recommended for trial—Heath, Cumberland.



**Strawberries.**

June Bearing—Dunlap, Premier.

For trial—Minnehaha, Easypicker, Bellmar, Blakemore, Dorsett.

Everbearing—Progressive.

For trial—Dry Weather, Wayzata.

**Valuable Native Fruits.**

Saskatoon (Juneberry), Missouri Currant, Sandberry, Chokecherry, Buffaloberry, Pembina (Highbush Cranberry).

**Nuts Worth Growing.**

Black Walnut, Butternut, Hazelnut.

The best way to support tree branches with too heavy a crop is not by props on the outside, but by wires on the inside, which are fastened to a ring in the middle and to the branches by means of screw eyes. Wire should never be put around tree trunks.

The cracking of fruits is the result of a fluctuating moisture supply. Sometimes sweet cherry crops are ruined by an untimely rain.

According to J. H. MacGillivray of Purdue University, the use of high temperature in canning tomatoes and tomato juice will reduce the brightness of the red color.

It is interesting to note that the recommended fruit list for Minnesota gives the Red Duchess apple as the only variety recommended for commercial planting in the territory nearest North Dakota. Varieties recommended for home use in this region include Anoka, Transparent, Charlamoff, Erickson, Hibernial, Patten, Anisim and Haralson.

The crown rot disease of sugar beets and mangels is now said to be due to a deficiency of boron in the soil. Previous to this time the disease was thought to be due to a fungus. This element, a rather obscure one, thus would be placed among those necessary for plant growth—at least some kinds of plant growth. Quite probably many plant and animal diseases will in the future be found to be due to excesses or deficiencies of some of the less prominent chemical elements. Spotted tooth enamel in humans, for example, has been found to be due to an excess of fluorine in drinking water.

Werner of Nebraska in the American Potato Journal states that irrigated potatoes which are free from virus disease are just as good seed stock as dry land potatoes. The "fly in the ointment" comes from the fact that it is much more difficult to keep potatoes free from virus disease under irrigation than under dry land conditions.

Southern plant growers are now developing a system of certification whereby purchasers of plants in the north can be sure that they are getting disease free, properly grown and properly named plants. Such a system of southern

plant certification would do much to stimulate their business. Plants could be grown farther south and shipped north to us much cheaper than they can be grown here and could be recommended for use if one were sure of their quality.

One of the less known species of honeysuckle which is spoken of very highly by plant lovers in other parts of the United States is *Lonicera maackii*. In our shrubbery test plots at the North Dakota Agricultural College this species has been perfectly hardy and an extremely vigorous grower. The plant is larger for its age than Tatarian honeysuckle, but as yet it has not distinguished itself as an especially attractive ornamental. We think it much less than a well selected specimen of tatarica. But, for that matter, there are few shrubs that are more showy and more satisfactory than a good specimen of Tatarian Honeysuckle. It is not only good for exposed dry locations, but one of the very best shrubs for shady locations underneath the trees where lilacs and many other shrubs fail to prosper.

We did a bit of personal observing on methods of handling dandelions this last spring. Until this year, we have always shied away from the dandelion rake as a means of dandelion control, thinking that it would only pull the heads off the plants and hence merely prevent the yard from looking so floriferous. However, upon making a personal trial with the rake—at the earnest behest of the Better Half—we have found that the rake actually stripped off the leaves from the plants without taking many leaves from the grass. The result is that we are now trying this alongside of other things to see how the lawn will turn out by the end of the year without hand digging. Another method of dandelion eradication which we have been trying is dipping an ice pick into a glass jar of commercial sulphuric acid and then pushing the pick into the heart of the dandelion plant. It is too early to say what our final conclusion may be, but it does give one a feeling of satisfaction to see the dandelion turn black and curl up within a day after the operation has been performed. This method sounds better to us than the use of gasoline, kerosene, concentrated lye, etc., in that it would tend to make the soil more acid which condition is favorable to the growth of grass and unfavorable for dandelions. One precaution in using the acid is not to get it on your clothes as it will eat holes in them, also be very careful not to get it on your hands.

The Ohio Garden Club Newsletter states that lawn clippings should be left on the lawn; otherwise a yearly mulch of peat is necessary. . . . Castor beans are worthless in controlling moles. . . . Topping back trees is harmful to the tree and destroys its beauty.





## GARDEN CLUB NOTES



**Purley L. Keene**

To our knowledge Yard and Garden contests have been held this summer by the following clubs: Sioux Falls Garden Club, Clark County Garden Club, Athena Literary Society of Flandreau, Dell Rapids Garden Club, and Lead Garden Club. The following clubs have held flower shows this year: Sioux Falls Garden Club, Dell Rapids Garden Club, Wattertown Community Club, Lead Garden Club and Clark County Garden Club. There may be other communities in the State that have held Yard and Garden contests or Flower shows, if so, we would be very pleased to know of them.

These activities have aroused a great deal of interest in horticulture, especially in flower growing and landscape gardening. In some communities the influence has extended into the culture of fruits and vegetables. The value of this work cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. In some cases garden clubs or those in charge of their activities, may feel that it is not worth while but I am sure if they will stop to consider all of the benefits derived from their efforts they would realize that a great deal of good has been accomplished.

In some cases competition has been rather keen and perhaps resulted in slight irritations. Some clubs are adopting a different system of rating their entrants in contests. Mr. Rahm-low, Secretary of the Wisconsin Horticultural Society, has issued a special circular on judging certain classes such as table arrangements to obviate competition. This system of rating entries is used in many school musical contests, Boy Scout contests and elsewhere. The plan is based on the rating of the contestant against a perfect score. Exhibits or entries scoring about the same are put in the same division and given the same rating and the same kind of ribbon or award. The following divisions and ratings are suggested:

Excellent, blue ribbon, score 95 to 100.

Very good, red ribbon, score, 90 to 94.

Good, white ribbon, score, 85 to 89.

Fair, pink ribbon, score 80 to 84.

Mr. Rahm-low also suggests that constructive comments should be noted by the judge or judges and states that this plan has been used very successfully at several flower shows this season.

This year as well as last year several of the clubs reached out into the surrounding county and included in their contest several farm homes.

This year at Clark two farm homes were entered in their contest. Those of Mr. Bert Hoffman and Mr. Chas. Benike. Both of these people are to be complimented upon the results they have accomplished during the past unfavorable years. At the country home of Mr. Hoffman one finds a small, orchard, flower and vegetable garden, the yard well fenced with the driveway coming in on one side, the buildings well arranged and sheltered by a windbreak. At the home of Mr. Benike one finds a wide collection of horticultural plants. Mr. Benike stated, when asked how he was able to keep his trees and gardens growing so well during the past few years, that he depended largely on clean cultivation during the spring and summer months and artificial mulching during the late fall and winter months.

The Benike farmstead lies just over the crest of a hill to the north of the farmstead site. It is sheltered by a long ash shelter belt, with Black Hills spruce on the inside edge. The yard and gardens are fenced. The orchard trees were headed low and many of them were top-worked. Intercropping with vegetables and small fruits between the rows of apples and plum trees is being practiced. In spite of the fact that the orchard and garden lies on a southwestern slope and exposed to the sunshine and the southwestern drying winds, Mr. Benike has been able to keep his plants growing by clean cultivation and mulching. He maintains the fertility of the soil by liberal applications of cow manure.

The following trees were found on his place: Black Hills Spruce, Colorado Blue Spruce, Douglas Fir, Green Ash, American Elm, Chinese Elm, Hackberry, Basswood, Black Walnut, Black Locusts, Russian Mulberry, Tartarian Maple and Black Willow. The following shrubs were used in beautifying the yard: Bechtel's Double Flowering Crab, Chokecherry, Juneberry, Elderberries and Spireas. The following kind and varieties of small fruit can be found at his place: Strawberries, Superb, Mastadon, Progress and Duluth Red Raspberries, Latham, Black Raspberry, Cumberland and John Robertson's seedling.

Currants, Red Lake, Diploma, Wilder.

Gooseberries, Carrie, Houghton.

Grapes, Alpha, Beta, Dakota, Lucille, Concord, Moore's Early, Monitor and Suelter.

Mr. Benike covers all of his grapes with soil in the fall of the year, uncovering them about May 10. This not only protects them from the drying winter winds but also holds them back in the spring so as to avoid late spring freezes.

Mr. Benike has over one hundred varieties of apples in his orchard. Many of them have been top-worked on hardy trees. He has a very good collection of plum varieties as follows: Opata,

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## CELOTEX AS PROTECTIVE COVERING FOR BEEHIVES.

J. A. Munro.

Preliminary tests indicate that Celotex ranks high as protective covering for beehives. Most forms of common insulation materials, such as wood shavings, dry leaves, flax straw, etc., because of their bulkiness and susceptibility to weathering must be removed at the close of the wintering period. This is not true of Celotex. It may be attached to the hive bodies once and for all time.

Celotex is a commercial form of insulation material composed largely of cane fibres pressed into sheets of varying size and thickness. For beehive insulation the Celotex of one inch thickness has given most satisfactory results. The sheets may be cut into pieces, corresponding in size to the sides, ends, and tops of the hives, on an ordinary circular saw. The sizes to cut the pieces will vary according to the type of hive which you use. Here at Fargo only the standard depth, 10-frame hives have been used for testing the Celotex for hive insulation. Most satisfactory results were had by wintering the colonies in the 2-story or double hive bodies. The number of pieces of Celotex of one inch thickness and their dimensions for the covering of each 2-story hive are as follows:

- 1 top piece 20"x16"
- 4 end pieces 16 $\frac{3}{8}$ "x9 $\frac{5}{8}$ "
- 4 side pieces 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ "x9 $\frac{5}{8}$ "

The above pieces are sufficient to cover the sides, ends, and top of the 2-story hive. Corners of the hives may be protected by a piece of galvanized metal, each piece being 9 $\frac{5}{8}$ "x6" and bent at right angles through the center of its length. Three or four holes should be punched in each side of the metal corner for nailing the corners, together with the Celotex, for permanent attachment to the hive bodies. The metal corners not only serve to hold the sheets of Celotex in place but also serve in protecting the Celotex corners. Painting of the Celotex is unnecessary.

When preparing the colony for winter all that is necessary is to remove any supers which may be above the Celotex-covered hive bodies. See to it that the colony is provided with adequate stores and is of moderate strength. The Celotex top piece may then be placed directly over the inner cover. You will find that the outer cover will fit down over the Celotex top, provided you remove the wooden cleats which form a rim inside the regular metal-topped hive covers.



IN NORTH DAKOTA, CELOTEX KEEPS BEES WARM THROUGH THE WINTER. Three years of testing at North Dakota Agricultural College proved its value.

Final preparation for winter requires the reducing of the size of the hive entrance to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 inches in width. These entrances may be covered with quarter inch wire mesh to keep mice from getting in. Additional protection may be had by wrapping building paper around the top and sides of the hive, observing the precaution of not covering the hive entrance. The grade of building paper sold under the trade name of "Rhino Rope" is very satisfactory because of its toughness and resistance to weathering. The additional protection afforded by the outer wrapping of paper over the Celotex should not be necessary except under the most severe wintering conditions.

With this method of insulation, as with any other method of outdoor wintering, the value of a natural shelterbelt of trees or other wind-break protection for the apiary should not be overlooked. Celotex-covered hives at the North Dakota Experiment Station have given splendid results in wintering. During the past two winters the colonies thus protected wintered through 90 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively.

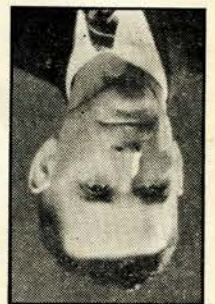
For the 2-story, standard-depth, 10-frame hive the cost of Celotex, of one inch thickness, at

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One of my sons, a successful Chicago physician, stopped here on his way to the Hills and as visits with him are few and far between, it required little persuasion from him, to induce me to make the trip to the summer meeting in his car. Being in a hurry, as Chicago people usually are, he took the direct route to Rapid City, No. 56, which I regretted, as it did not allow me to visit our friends at St. Francis. However it is



about the convention and the town. I enjoyed every minute of the six days I was away on the trip. Outstanding was Robertsons' weedless orchard and gardens, the wonderful nursery on at Butler estate and the Shelterbelt nursery on the Gates place. Three good showers in the Hills district during our visit, brightened up all vegetation.

sown thin and made fair sized onions.  
 July 24th.—Mr. T. M. Bailey phoned that he  
 had picked some Bison tomatoes; we also pick-  
 ed Bison tomatoes today and a few Pink Heart.  
 The black squash bug and perhaps the borer,  
 is again getting our vines. Making up a 450  
 foot irrigating outfit during this hot weather,  
 is harder work than weeding or wheel-hoeing,  
 the pipe actually burned my hands.  
 August 2nd.—We picked the first Golden Ban-  
 tam sweet corn today and it is plenty wormy.  
 A week ago, we got a load of white corn from  
 Vermillion, a big difference in quality, tastes  
 like squash corn. Later plantings are free from  
 worms.

We feel like a bonanza farmer this year. From 4½ acres of rye sown late last fall, that looked so thin I was advised to plow it up this spring, we harvested 122 bushels of clean seed, free from rust, smut or foul seed and 168 bales of nice bright straw. I may be eligible for an A. A. A. crop reduction contract, next year, and may have to join the farmer's union. I hope to have a valuable paper on tomatoes

for the Aberdeen meeting, (Jan. 15th and 16th), but will need the co-operation of tomato enthusiasts throughout the state, so will look for reports on the North Dakota and the new Pennsylvania varieties, compared with the regular old time sorts. Anyone that has the new Penn State please report, this is a new one with a Bison cross.

Three of us, on different routes to the Hills, saw a total of five pheasants while I have, in former years, counted 75, in just going to Yank-ton. Still the Game Commission is allowing an open season of five weeks. Several farmers have told me they have seen very few. Around my place, there are less than there were 25 years ago when we promised Dr. Zettlitz we would protect them. Must the pheasant in our State go the way of the Quail and the Prairie Chicken?

On returning to Hot Springs after the picnic dinner at Mr. Robertson's home, Mr. Low, our nursery inspector and I brought the wonderful cider given us there, to the hotel and put it on ice. It made a fine drink and was enjoyed, before the banquet.

After the banquet I walked over to John's truck to return the empty bottles and was followed by a man who wanted to know all about the contents. Some one else will have to write with jenny seed in it.

On this drive, we noticed many evergreens striped bare of all green foliage. On closer examination we found that a borer similar to the squash borer, had done this work, even making holes in the tender branches. If these worms keep spreading, they can easily destroy all of the beautiful evergreens in the Black Hills.

I had also noticed on the previous day's trip that Creeping Jenny was present, along the roadside, all the way to the Black Hills, even in the grain losing out of wagons and trucks, or by the teamsters building the highways. Feeding oats

nice to have something pleasant to look forward to and a visit there is one of the "must" items on my horizon. One of the main things that forced itself on my attention during the long ride was the prevalence of feed and the scarcity of any-thing to consume it. Hogs, other than the "road" variety, seemed to be almost an extinct animal and poultry flocks were sadly depleted. A few cows with figures resembling barrels, attested the excellence of pastures and the paucity of com-petition in garnering their riches, but even the pheasants seemed strangely lacking, one could count all seen, on the fingers of one hand. I have been told that the latter, were occupied at that time in keeping down the insect population of the grain fields and are not nearly as scarce as one would suppose, from the small number seen. At Rapid City, a pleasant evening was spent with the hospitable Gates family and the following day I was their guest on the interest-ing drive down through the Hills to Hot Springs.





## THE STRANGE SOUTHWEST.

A. L. Truax.

As we had spent thirty-eight winters in North Dakota and my wife had undergone a serious hospital operation in August of last year, we decided that a winter spent in the warm southwest would be a welcome change for us. We left Crosby by car October 5th, 1934, and travelled leisurely southward, across South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas; 154 miles into Old Mexico to the city of Monterey; back into New Mexico, thence into Arizona, then to Southern California and up the Californian coast, zigzagging across that great State until we reached Oregon. Then up the Columbia River Highway and across Idaho into Yellowstone Park via the South entrance; out at the Cody entrance, thence across Wyoming to the Black Hills region of South Dakota; across South Dakota and Minnesota to Minneapolis and then back home.

Nearly everyone knows that the Southwest is a strange and fascinating region. There is the spell of the desert, the bizarre and colorful scenery, the strange and exotic vegetation, the rugged and twisted mountains, the ruins of ancient civilizations, buried cities, old missions and other relics of the Spanish domination, cliff dwellings of pre-historic date and the picturesque and highly intelligent present-day Indian tribes inhabiting that region: all these combining to intrigue and fascinate us strangers from the Northland.

However the purpose of our magazine is to convey to the reader matter of horticultural interest and I must confine myself to a few notes along that line as may occur to me at this time from memory.

At Galveston, Texas, on October 29th, the streets were lined with Palms and boulevarded with Oleanders in full bloom. Twenty-eight varieties of Oleanders in 14 shades of color grow in profusion on this sheltered island. And to think that we have to grow them in pots in the north. Poinsettias seed themselves and run wild in yards and even by the roadsides in southern Texas.

From Brownsville, Texas, to Harlingen, in the famous grapefruit and orange region, transformed from a desert into a paradise by the diverted waters of the Rio Grande. Throughout the whole distance, little towns and cities are strung along the palm-bordered highway like beads, on a string.

From Harlingen, Texas, to Laredo we had our first view of the desert—a seeming waste of cacti and thorny plants, grotesque and even terrible in appearance. However, here and there one sees a ranch house and near by it, always a windmill indicating that here is wa-

ter. Livestock ranges more or less over the desert, and one wonders how they live on the sparse and thorny vegetation, but they do. A bossy or a steer will manage even the Jumping Cactus which seems to leap at one with its needle-sharp, curving spines, by gingerly seizing a joint at its lower end with the spines pointing away from the animal's mouth, and then gradually working the whole into the mouth until all is devoured. Men go with blow torches among the prickly Pear Cactus and burn off the spines, then cut and stack the plants for winter stock feed; everything has its uses.

On November 3rd. we were south of the Rio Grande in Old Mexico, speeding along a magnificent highway leading from Laredo, Texas, to the city of Monterey. This highway will be finished next year, clear through to Mexico City. The vegetation is mostly cacti, mingled with other sparse and thorny plants. Occasionally a hovel is seen and one wonders how its inhabitants live; but a patch of Pinto beans, another one of red peppers and a few goats, seem to solve the problem. One meets on the highway an occasional sombreroed Mexican, astride a diminutive burro, with his feet almost touching the ground; and once we met a burro with a load of hay piled and strapped upon his back and his Lord and Master riding jauntily on top of the load of hay.

Monterey, in Old Mexico is a beautiful city in a valley with a magnificent mountain setting, and transformed by irrigation and American capital. The dwellings, which abut upon the pavements, have barred windows fronting to the street, but are built around a court or patio, which usually has a fountain or pool in the center, surrounded by flowers, shrubs and climbing vines. In the principal park, which is a beautiful one, ripe oranges were falling unheeded from the trees to the ground. We being avid for ripe oranges, picked them up and ate them while the inhabitants smiled. We found the fruit somewhat sharp and sour and learned later that these were wild oranges, grown for ornament only. The roots are used for stock upon which the sweet varieties are grafted.

On November 6th. we were back in the U. S. A., headed for San Antonio, Texas. I must pass by mention of many features of this old and fascinating city, including its Spanish quarter, its historic Alamo and its four old Spanish missions, older than those of California, strung along an eleven mile drive, south of the city, and take notice only of Brackenridge Park, with its famous sunken gardens and one of the largest collections of Water Lilies of the United States. The great features, when we were there, were the Oleanders, Poinsettias and Pomegran-

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# BEEKEEPING NOTES.

J. A. Munro.

The Crookston Meeting: What a treat it was for all who attended the Crookston meeting on July 19th to hear Mrs. Jensen, honey specialist of the American Honey Institute. She told of the work being done by the Institute in developing a wider use for honey in foods. In her testing kitchen at Madison she and her assistants test all honey recipes before passing them on to the public. Every day we see the good work of the Institute reflected in honey recipes in household magazines, newspapers, etc., and a gradually increasing demand for honey.

Everyone enjoyed seeing the well kept apiaries, buildings, and grounds of Mount St. Benedict Academy at Crookston. The Academy has more than 400 hives of bees. Their honey-house is furnished with the most modern equipment for extracting honey and processing it into cream honey butter, honey cream, cream honey merge, and fruit honey spread. They use more than 10,000 pounds of beeswax annually in the making of beeswax candles, many of which are beautifully decorated by their art department. The products of their apiaries are sold in all parts of the country. It was truly a wonderful place for demonstrating the many uses for honey and beeswax.

Beekeepers of the two state associations pledged more than 5,000 pounds of honey towards the support of the American Honey Institute. Maurice Cousineau, manager of the N. D. Bee Supply Company, Moorhead, Minnesota, agreed to receive the honey and arrange for its transportation to the Twin Cities, where, after it has been on exhibition at the State Fair, it will be sold—the proceeds of which will go to the American Honey Institute.

Reverend Francis Jager, St. Bonifacius, spoke on the need for greater financial support for research. He paid tribute to the investigational work in beekeeping being done at the experimental stations, but pointed out that the work is hampered for lack of funds. He commented on the ideal conditions for honey production in this region and stressed the need for a better understanding of problems connected with the industry.

Dues: Please do not wait for a special notice before sending in your \$1.00 for renewal membership in the North Dakota Beekeepers' Association. Membership entitles you to North and South Dakota Horticulture for one year; 50 per cent reduction in annual subscription to the leading bee journals, and other services which you cannot afford to miss.

J. A. Munro, Secretary N. D. B. A.  
State College Station, Fargo, North Dakota.

# THE STRANGE SOUTHWEST

(Continued from page 104)

ates and as we strolled among the sunken gardens a Spanish gentleman thrummed his guitar from the heights above.

From San Antonio to El Paso we were again in the Cactus country. The farther south one goes in Texas, the greater the number and extent of Cactus varieties and there are more in Mexico than in Texas. In El Paso are nurseries that specialize in Cacti and one can probably buy more rare and choice varieties there than in any other place in the United States. The number of varieties is amazing and must run into the thousands. One kind grows only in a certain county in Texas and nowhere else in the world. Another, in one small locality in Mexico only and others only in Peru or Bolivia. There are all sizes and shapes, some tiny as a button, some tall as a tree; some hairy, some smooth; some shaped like a melon, some like a star fish and some like a Bishop's cap. Nearly all bear wonderfully showy blossoms, the smallest plant in stature often surpassing the largest in size and profusion of blossom.

At Carlsbad Caverns, in New Mexico, which by the way, is now the largest cave, or series of caves, in the world, the Government maintains a collection of the plants native to that region and as the Cacti and thorny plants were all labeled, a list of them might be interesting to some. Ephedra torreyana, Spanish dagger, La palma, yucca macrocarpa, lechuguilla, little century plant, little mesquite, Agave lechuguilla, century plant, goat beans, bluethorn, candle flame, devil's walking stick, etc., surely a prickly bunch, and the reader may skip around or hop over the names if he wishes, the same as we did with the plants themselves.

(Editor's note: This is the last of four articles by Mr. Truax, describing the interesting things seen on their recent trip. The next, describing their stay in Arizona, will appear in the October Number.)

# CELOTEX AS PROTECTIVE COVERING FOR BEEHIVES

(Continued from page 102)

current prices is about \$1.25. There will be slight additional cost depending upon whether metal corners are used and additional protection is afforded in the form of a wrapping of building paper.

The method appears to be worthy of further extended trial. The writer would be glad to hear of the results secured by others in various parts of the country who may have occasion to test this plan of wintering.

J. A. Munro, Entomologist,  
North Dakota Agricultural College,  
Fargo, North Dakota.





## SECRETARY'S CORNER

W. A. Simmons

In a recent letter, Mr. C. M. Clarke of Teepee Creek, Alberta, Canada, says: "The last paragraph of Maude Backlund's article, in the June magazine prompts the following suggestion for transplanting Juneberries which may be useful to any one who has found it difficult. Remove the entire top, cut the roots into short lengths, about 4 or 5 inches. Plough a furrow 4 inches deep or dig a flat bottomed trench of that depth. Scatter the pieces of root on the bottom of the furrow, fill in the earth-pack or tramp, then rake over. The work may be done at any time of the year. If done early in the spring, shoots should appear above ground during the summer. Later plantings may not produce new growth 'till the following year. The plants will begin to bear fruit about the third year."

Many things stand out in retrospect, regarding our summer meeting, the surprisingly poor cabin camp at Winner and the unexpectedly fine city park there—the wonderful place built up by the devoted followers of the Savior at St. Francis and the pleasant visit to Mr. Claude Barr's most interesting wild flower garden, near Smithwick, but the thing that recurs oftenest and overshadows all else is the personality and character of the man we sought to honor, John S. Robertson.

In the end I think most of us realize it was beyond our power to honor such a man: that we were merely honoring ourselves by associating with him. We saw a garden at Winner, entirely surrounded and covered with light weight muslin. It was the property of the greenhouse man and he was merely using cloth, instead of glass, also there were no benches, the gardening being done on the gumbo floor. Of course everything was within the reach of the hose and evidently the owner desired to have considerable to say about what pests, whether disease, insect or human, entered therein. I think I would enjoy gardening under such circumstances. The absence of the hot Sun, the freedom from tree seed and the opportunity of assassinating such weeds as had the temerity to invade the place, would all appeal to me. It is really amazing what the devoted Brothers and Sisters have accomplished at St. Francis.

The wooden buildings of the first construction, were wiped out by fire in 1916 and with the \$59,000 insurance realized, fire resistant structures



**JOHN S. ROBERTSON**

Courtesy of the Argus-Leader.

of re-inforced cement have replaced them and in their size, their completeness, their beauty and their well planned general effectiveness, seem destined to remain a monument to their builders, for all time to come.

A church, capable of seating 800 comfortably and with lovely stained glass windows, would be an ornament to any modern city and is most surprising here, located as it is, 35 miles from the nearest railway. An immense gymnasium makes the wonderful basketball club, annually turned out here, understandable.

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SECRETARY'S CORNER

(Continued from page 106)

The spotless dormitories where, during school season, 500 Indian boys and a like number of girls live, were calculated to start the native Americans off with a keen appreciation of the merits of civilization. But the thing that impressed me most favorably was the loving kindness and consideration with which these little people were treated. Indian children often escape from Government schools, to the extent that expert Indian trackers are employed to hunt down and bring back the runaways, at some such schools, but this never occurs here.

Brother Hinderhofer, a life member of our society, welcomed us and showed us around with pardonable pride. He is a youth of 75 years, but still capable of whipping his weight in wild cats and he has provided an enduring monument for himself, in the many trees and shrubs he has planted.

Mr. Claude Barr and his father, occupy adjoining farms, about 8 miles southeast of Smithwick, in a region where about all but they, have fled. From the thrifty planting around their places, however, it does not look as though either was contemplating moving in the near future. The soil is of the most tenacious gumbo, which he has had to modify with sand and leaf mold, in order to grow his many wild flowers, which later, he has sold in nearly every state in the union. Mr. Barr is highly educated and speaks Latin, fluently every time one enquires the name of one of his wild flowers. He explains that many of them have no other names, which perhaps accounts for their being so wild. Mr. Barr is doing a great work there with wild flowers and we are all proud of him.

On our arrival at Hot Springs we found Robertson there to welcome us and after supper and a meeting of the Executive Board, he took me out to his place, to spend the night. The promised good road is still mostly in the promise stage though the substitution of stock proof gates, for gates, is quite a help. On the completion of a road to his place, Mr. Robertson will be prepared to believe the Frau's rat trap story, not before. On retiring, at 11 o'clock, the mercury stood at 53 and did I sleep? We arose at 5 and after breakfast, I was taken for a tour of the orchard. Like most orchardists, Mr. Robertson has reached the conclusion that spraying alone, can not be relied on to keep down the codling moth, and this year he has scraped and banded all of his apple and pear trees. While he practices clean cultivation, as a moisture saving measure, he is continually hauling in straw, is a fine set of apples and pears, this year, the latter mostly being top-worked on hardy and blight resistant Hansen pear trees. Was much

struck with the beauty of the Red-fleshed crabs, which I saw here for the first time. The fruit was then about the size of small walnuts and of a handsome dark maroon color. They have great decorative value at all ages and sizes, but the crabs eventually take on the size of the largest of crabs and I am told they have a fine flavor.

At 9:30 we started down to the scene of the dedication, arriving at about 10 o'clock and finding a large crowd, already assembled. The speaking was done by Mr. Wallner, Dr. Jas. Clark and Dr. Hansen, with a brief acknowledgment by Mr. Robertson.

We have a fine piece of ground there, that will be landscaped and planted, during the coming years and which will undoubtedly become a very pretty little Park and the boulder looks good for several million years.

After the speaking, the entire party went to Mr. Robertson's place where a picnic dinner was enjoyed and a tour of the orchard made. On returning from the orchard, Mr. Robertson retired to the cellar and spent the next half hour, busily handing out bottles of his ambrosial cider. Every one present got out side of a pint bottle of it and many of us were also given a quart bottle to take home with us. We returned to Hot Springs about 4 P. M. and were shown over the wonderful Butler estate, 10 acres of fairy land, making us realize that there are compensations for being millionaires and able to hire expert gardeners. There is nothing like this place in the state and it must be seen, to be appreciated. We were also shown the proposed site of the Wild Flower garden, a Federal project in which Hot Springs is deeply interested.

On the following day, we started north through the Hills with Mr. Gates, who knows all the hills by their first names, as leader and guide. No one could have shown us more of the beauty spots of the Hills in one day and at supper time, he had us at his home near Rapid City for another picnic supper. And so closed our most successful and enjoyable summer meeting.

Mr. J. J. Ostrowsky, of Sioux Falls, has a very interesting Henri Lily this year. It is in the condition known as "fasciated." The stalk is ribbon shaped, about an inch and a half wide and nearly one-half inch thick and 6 feet high. The great flower head contained 87 buds and blossoms. No one seems to know what causes this condition, which is likely to appear on most any variety of lily. Instead of being round the stem comes up flat and an abnormal number of blossoms appear. In the following year, the bulb is likely to return to normal, throw up the usual round stalk with the normal number of blossoms.

Mr. Ostrowsky also has a hardy dewberry loaded with large fruit, the size of a man's thumb.







### THE ABERDEEN GARDEN CLUB.

In sending in a money order for 17 additional members, Mrs. Roy B. Colby, the Secretary writes: "Our club is still growing, as you see and we have had many fine meetings, this year. In June we sponsored a Peony exhibit in the First National Bank lobby, which was very successful. We expect to have two more flower exhibits this season. The towns people show much interest in these, since heretofore the only chance to show blooms, was at the Tri. State Fair.

Last Friday evening the Britton Garden Club members were our invited guests at a travel meeting and program and social hour, which followed. Some of our out-standing gardens were inspected and were a great inspiration to many of us.

Next Sunday we are to go to Pickerel Lake to view the Peabody Gardens. When I visited them, during the week of July the fourth, the roses and canterbury bells made them a bower of enchantment."

Thus the successful Garden Clubs, keep active the year 'round and grow rapidly.

### WALNUTS FROM SEED.

Mrs. L. G. Elsinger.

An article on the growing of black walnut trees which appeared in a farm magazine a short time ago stated among other things, that trees planted from nuts, in their permanent place, would often bear at the age of six years. After reading this article, we thought it would be of interest to others to know that a tree of ours planted as a nut just 5 years ago, is proudly displaying ten good-sized walnuts this autumn. In view of the fact that these trees have withstood the past dry years, every one surviving, we think they have made a remarkable growth.

Now is the time to mark the sweetest sand-cherry bushes. Just watch the ones that scores of robins are feasting on.

A cabbage strain the odors from which won't be offensive in the house, or decrease the value of the adjoining real estate, is announced by Cornell University as one of the 15 new ones recently developed. The non-smelling type is a selection from Early Savoy. It is also claimed to be a little more easily digested than ordinary cabbage, and equally effective as medicine when made into kraut. It has a reasonably uniform head shape and well crinkled foliage and the new strain includes two red ones.

The October issue will contain an interesting article by Max Pfaender, on Seeds for Shelterbelt Planting.

### THE INDIAN.

J. H. Berry.

Hello Folks, howdy, you can blame Mr. G. F. Will and the hot weather, for this.

In his Indian story in the August magazine, he says, "It is the fashion of the white man to belittle the Indian." I think George was mistaken in his man: such men are just monkeys who have ceased to evolve. If God ever made a better sample of man than the old, original, Indian, you gotta show me twice.

I'm from Arkansaw, have had it shot into me from Texas, been run over by a Ford in Oklahoma and they fell trees on me in Louisiana. I have tried hard for 53 years this week, Wednesday, August 7th, to live in South Dakota.

Right here at Armour, on August 7th, 1882, I bet Uncle Sam \$14.00 of borrowed money I could stay anywhere a grasshopper could raise a family. I'm not on the brag but I'm right here to say I've been a long time and had oodles of fun, losing the money. At one time I challenged every nursery in South Dakota to show more living and growing plants than I had and offered not to count the first 100 varieties.

In my first history of the United States at school when a boy, I saw a picture of an Indian chief with shackles on his legs and handcuffs on his wrists, standing in front of some British officers brandishing his bound hands and using these words: "An Indian as bad as a white man couldn't live in our nation." If Christ ever spoke words more true, crisp and to the point, they were not featured in my Sunday school lessons.

I would like to tell the world just one true Indian story, of Old Iron Bull, a Yankton Sioux, at some future time. Indians have proven themselves to be men, to me on several different occasions.

I would like to be with you at Mandan but I am near 82 years old and expect to check out on my life membership cheerfully, when God whistles. Will try to send you my foreign address.

### GARDEN CLUB NOTES

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Sapa, Waneta, Tonka, Tecomseh, Wyant, Kahinta, Pembina, Forest Garden, Wolf, Underwood, Golden Rod, La Crescent, Superior, Wastesa, Yuteca, Hanska, Kaga, Tokata, and Minnesota No. 83 and 216. There are two varieties of cherries, Homer and Early Richmond and the Manchurian apricot.

Mr. Benike has made horticulture his hobby and has a very wide collection of plant materials. It is well worth anyone's time to visit his place and to see what has been done under the adverse conditions of the past few years.